



*All we need to begin with is a dream that we can do better than before.
All we need to have is faith, and that dream will come true.
All we need to do is act, and the time for action is now.*
~ Carl Sandburg

December 2011

Dear Friends,

As I read this quote from Carl Sandburg I look back over this year in reflection of the “big dream” we envision for Cedar Hill Enrichment Center and the actions needed to bring it forth. The original by-laws for Cedar Hill described the two purposes for the corporate formation and one is “to conduct educational programs that offer holistic and ecologically sound ways of living with the Earth.” This summer, we went on hiatus to look at restructuring and revisioning for this sacred place. What has emerged and continues to evolve is the transformation of Cedar Hill as a Center for Sustainable Living. Cedar Hill is dedicated to community education and outreach through holistic and resilient ways of living with Earth and each other.

What does sustainability mean? The definition most frequently used today is “the ability of the current generation to meet its needs without compromising the needs of future generations.” People are living in a state of crisis, trying to survive in a world that is moving too fast, that leaves them feeling an immense emptiness. It is our intention to offer programs to raise awareness of critical issues while empowering people to live in resilient, regenerative ways that can serve the entire community. We are simply holding true to the original intention set forth in the wisdom and vision of the founding members.

Cedar Hill will continue to be a place for retreats, offering a safe, serene environment for individuals and groups. This past year we hosted 301 day retreats and 75 overnight guests. One guest described her time here as being “...tucked into a nurturing, peaceful place where I can open myself to my own words, and do the work that feeds my soul.” Yes, caring for the human spirit in the inspiring environment of the natural world, is still very much a part of Cedar Hill.

What are the needs of the community and how can Cedar Hill serve? We will continue to ask these questions and be open to our stakeholders offering us ideas and suggestions. How can you be a part of this exciting time in the future of Cedar Hill? We need volunteers as board and/or committee members, ambassadors/advocates, grounds and building maintenance, gardening, materials gathering and many other projects. In 2011 over 1,000 volunteer hours were logged in through the generous gift of time.

Of course, your financial contributions are greatly appreciated to help with the daily operations as we move forward in the coming year. We depend on your generous financial support during this time of transition. You can make your end-of-year donation by check to the address below or by credit card on our secure website.

Community building on many levels, combined with the principles of permaculture, is essential to the growth and future of Cedar Hill. We invite you to dream big with us and act now!
To view a permaculture video narrated by Starhawk, visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT_2VVXA7SY

Blessings for a peace-filled holiday season.

In Gratitude,

Kat Stratton
Director

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